



West  
Africa  
Regional  
Program

# WARP

Second Quarter FY2004/Num 10

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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### The BIG NEWS is WARP's move to its NEW OFFICES in Accra!

On October 1, 2003, the West Africa Regional Program (USAID/WARP) officially moved from Bamako, Mali to Accra, Ghana. WARP now occupies a newly constructed wing within the USAID/Accra premises. WARP's Agriculture/Food Security & Environment Team will remain in Bamako through FY2005.

The commissioning plaque for the WARP offices was unveiled by The Honorable Mary C. Yates, U.S. Ambassador to Ghana on November 18, 2003 on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual WARP Advisory Board Meeting. This meeting featured Mission Directors and Embassy representatives from 12 countries who reviewed WARP's progress over the last two years and made concrete suggestions for improving collaboration and communication. WARP wishes to thank everyone for their enthusiastic participation!



U.S. Ambassador to Ghana, Mary C. Yates  
unveiling the Commissioning Plaque at  
the WARP Offices- ACCRA

## Reproductive Health, Nutrition, Child Survival and HIV/AIDS

### AWARE Succeeds FHA

The **Family Health and AIDS Prevention Project (FHA)** formally ended on September 30, 2003. From 1995 the project addressed reproductive health and child survival problems in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, and Togo. It also sponsored the region's first HIV/AIDS cross-border intervention. ***We thank all of the health professionals, regional NGOs, governments and our implementing partners especially JHPIEGO, Tulane University, PSI, JHU/CCP, FHI, and other USA-based groups, that contributed to making this project a resounding success.***

The new **West African Regional Health Project (AWARE)** kicked off in Accra September 28-October 2, 2003, with an orientation workshop for stakeholder organizations. FHI leads the HIV/AIDS component while EngenderHealth heads up the Reproductive Health and Child Survival (RH/CS) component. The West Africa Health Organization (WAHO) and CERPOD are also partners. AWARE will support the ECOWAS member countries plus Chad, Cameroon, and Mauritania. WARP now anticipates providing better services to non-presence countries. The AWARE funding breakdown is as follows: HIV/AIDS comprises 47%, followed by RH at 44%, CS 5%, and Infectious Diseases 4%. AWARE will promote the adoption of best and promising practices across the region, trans-boundary interventions, especially in HIV/AIDS, and build the capacity of regional institutions and networks to provide technical advice at national level.

### AWARE Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meets in Accra

USAID Health Officers from the region and Embassy representatives from six non-

presence countries met in Accra, November 20-21, 2003 to review WARP's new health program, planned activities, and case studies on best and promising practices while also offering guidance on future directions. AWARE will share work plans as well as information on funding opportunities with the TAG on an ongoing basis.



USAID Teamleader, Felix Awantang addressing the TAG Meeting

**National Health Accounts (NHA) Workshop in Dakar** Co-funded by WARP/AWARE, WHO, and others, the first technical training for Francophone countries on methodologies for determining NHA took place in Dakar from September 28 - October 3, 2003. Representatives from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cape Verde, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo attended.

**World Bank HIV/AIDS Cross-Border Project for Abidjan-Lagos Traffic Corridor** The World Bank-funded Cross-Border project along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor was inaugurated December 10-11, 2003. The project was inspired in part by USAID's FHA project for north-south transport routes. AWARE-HIV/AIDS program managers and the World Bank are examining opportunities for future collaboration on cross-border programs.

## **6<sup>th</sup> International Care and Support Conference**

WARP sponsored representatives from NGOs concerned with people living with HIV/AIDS to attend this conference, held in Dakar on December 9-10, 2003. Conference participants came from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cape Verde, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Togo.

## **ECOWAS Reproductive Health Care Managers Meeting**

From November 11-14, 2003, top managers of RH services throughout the region were invited by WAHO to review a regional commodity security initiative and a draft strategy for the reduction of maternal and perinatal mortality.

## **Upcoming Events**

- On **February 19-20**, AWARE will meet in Accra with WAHO, CDC, Tulane, and others to discuss the design of **the Young Professionals Internship Program and to clarify roles and responsibilities**. The program's objective is to provide young West African graduates with bilingual language skills, computer technology skills, and professional experience in their fields of expertise.
- AWARE HIV/AIDS is planning a **Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) Workshop** in collaboration with WAHO from **February 17-20**. The workshop, which will be attended by representatives of CCMs from the ECOWAS member states plus Cameroon, Mauritania, and Chad, is intended to build support for the Global Fund for Aids,

TB & Malaria regional proposal developed by WAHO. It will also furnish an opportunity to identify and discuss the capacity strengthening needs of the different CCMs.

- In **January and February**, AWARE and WARP Field Support partners will develop **Contraceptive Procurement Tables (CPT) in Cameroon and Togo**, and hold orientation meetings for contraceptive **commodities security transition plans**. The CPTs will determine contraceptive needs for the two countries through 2006. Later in the year, participants will develop contraceptive procurement transition plans that permit these countries to transition from USAID funding for contraceptives to other sources of funding.
- In the **last week of March**, AWARE-RH will support a **Best Practices Task Force Meeting** to enable its stakeholders to reach consensus on criteria for selecting best practices and to do an initial selection that addresses identified regional priorities in the areas of family planning, reproductive health, child survival, and infectious diseases.
- AWARE HIV/AIDS will hold a consultative meeting on a **proposed Study of the Impact of Conflict on HIV/AIDS**. This workshop will bring together development partners, humanitarian workers, and those working on HIV/AIDS to define: the objectives of the proposed study, the process for protocol development, and roles and responsibilities. Funding mechanisms will also be discussed.

## Food Security, Natural Resources Management & Environment

### Food Security

**Annual provisional crop monitoring meetings** were held in Bamako in November and in Nouakchott in December. A record cereal crop was forecast for the 2003/2004 season. An impressive 14,263,514 tons of cereals was estimated to have been produced this year in the region compared to 11,433,844 last year.

Based on these forecasts, the Sahel will register gross cereal output that is 25% higher than last year, and 31% higher than the five-year average. Although participants discussed how to avoid a slump in crop prices and to ameliorate the impact on farmers, the region does not yet have a viable plan to address these problems.



Bags of millet in a Niamey Market-Niger

**The CILSS Praia+ 9 Conference was held in November to analyze the progress of land tenure reform efforts in the region** with support from WARP. The Conference produced a “Final Declaration” that called for the Heads of the State of CILSS, WAEMU, and ECOWAS to adopt a common policy on land tenure through a regional land tenure agreement.

**The CILSS 38<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers was held in Mauritania in December.** DCM David Brown from the US Embassy spoke on behalf of the US Government at the opening ceremony for the Regional Network to Prevent Food Crises in the Sahel. The USG has provided CILSS with

some \$90 million dollars in support over the 30 year life of the organization. USAID is one of CILSS's major donors providing roughly half of its annual budget. Countries such as Mauritania and Chad are significant beneficiaries of CILSS activities.



DCM Brown with Rolf (right) and Jorge (left) at the CILSS Council of Ministers' meeting

**Biotechnology** The ECOWAS Ministers of Agriculture plan to request approval at the upcoming Heads of State meeting to be held in January to proceed with **a study on biotechnology regulations, the development of a biotechnology policy,** and regional regulations concerning GMOs in the region.

### Agriculture

**Crop Research Networks** In November, WARP met with the regional research coordination body, CORAF, crop research network coordinators and/or managers, and the big regional research institutions (IITA and ICRISAT) to discuss the structure and role of the crop networks. WARP-funded evaluators will be traveling in the region in February. Many of the bilateral USAID Missions can be expected to be contacted for interviews. ***Let us know if you have a special interest in these networks or wish to be contacted by the evaluation team.***

**Civil Society Capacity** WARP met with representatives of ROPPA (a regional



farmer's association comprising 10 national peasant associations), REFESA (the regional federation of nine national women associations), and INTERFACE (a regional business organization of 15 national agribusiness associations) in Dakar in November to discuss future collaboration. WARP is working with CILSS to provide grants for each of these organizations and thereby strengthen the ability of civil society to influence agriculture, trade, and business policies in West Africa.

**WAEMU Agriculture & Food Security Strategy** In November, in Bamako, WARP staff attended an important workshop organized by WAEMU to present their agriculture program and food security strategy. WAEMU is developing two mechanisms to provide credit to farmers' organizations – the Regional Agricultural Development Fund and the Regional Solidarity Bank.

**African Market Gardens** WARP made a small grant to the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to test and disseminate a market garden and low-pressure drip irrigation system. The program objective is to install a critical mass of African Market Gardens (AMG) in Burkina Faso and Ghana that will accelerate adoption of this promising technique. The market gardens will introduce year-round production of vegetables and fruits. Two hundred gardens will be established in Burkina Faso over the next year and another 50 have been proposed for northern Ghana the following year.



Market Garden in Ghana

## Upcoming events

- **IEHA Strategy Session, January 12-23, Accra** The WARP staff will meet with staff from USAID Washington on how to incorporate the Agricultural Initiative into the WARP strategy.
- **Commodity Network Evaluation February** Evaluators will be traveling through the region to assess the rice, maize and sorghum commodity networks. New WARP IEHA Coordinator, Robert Kagbo, will join the evaluation team.
- **Sustainable Natural Resource Management CRSP Meeting, February 23-25, Bamako** The WARP team will attend this conference, and will hold side meetings with NRM experts from USAID/Washington and the region to discuss options for regional NRM projects.
- **CILSS Head of the State Summit, January 26 2004, Nouakchott** The Heads of the States will discuss the nomination of the Executive Secretary of CILSS; the conclusions of the evaluation and organizational audit of CILSS; the issues of biotechnology, water management system for the Sahel region, and the CILSS endowment foundation.
- **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) meeting in Food and nutrition Security Policies for West Africa – 2020 vision initiative – in Bamako January 13-15, 2004** WARP will be represented.
- **Ouagadougou and Niamey CILSS donors group meetings,**

**January (TBD)**, in Niamey and Ouagadougou.

- **FEWS/NET Regional Committee Meeting, Dakar, February 2004**
- **CORAF General Assembly Meeting March 23-25, Place TBD:**
- **Vulnerability Assessment Technical Committee Meeting,**

**March, Place TBD:** FEWS, WFP, CILSS and WARP will meet to prepare the harmonized framework for current vulnerability.

- **Final Crop Assessment (PREGEC) Meeting, March 2004, Place TBD** Will finalize the 2003/2004 crop production figures.

### **Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA)**

This summer, WARP's action plan for agriculture was granted provisional approval. WARP will support rice, maize, sorghum, and millet commodity networks in association with WARDA, IITA and ICRISAT. WARP has chosen to obtain services via a "buy-in" to several Washington-based Field Support implementation mechanisms. The Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project (ABSP) II will be used to promote the application of modern biotechnology tools to improving agricultural productivity. The Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS) will address biosafety regulatory policy.

## **Regional Economic Integration**

**The West African Business Women's Network (WABNET or REFAO)** held its second Annual Conference in Conakry, Guinea in October 2003. Sixty women from 10 countries throughout West Africa met to set the agenda for the organization's coming year. Conference activities included seminars in financial management for small businesses, leadership training, accessing AGOA, and internet effectiveness, (see [www.wabnetwork.org](http://www.wabnetwork.org) and [www.usaid.gov/gn](http://www.usaid.gov/gn)). A **Trade Show** allowed the participants to present their individual chapters and sell goods. The next Annual Meeting will be held in Lomé, Togo, October 2004.

**A Small Grants Program**, launched during the WABNET meeting, will permit regional

organizations to apply on a quarterly basis for a grant "to enhance a small business or organization oriented toward supporting the growth of women's businesses." Financed through WARP's ECOGEE program, the first call for proposals garnered 11 requests. The program's first grant will fund the purchase of equipment to improve the offices of the WABNET chapter in Accra, Ghana.

**ECOWAS Secretariat Management Training:** The second in a series of WARP-sponsored training events for ECOWAS senior managers took place in Accra in November. With a focus on strategic planning and leadership skills development, the training will enhance the Secretariat's capacity to design

and implement programs that foster integration in West Africa.



Product show at the WABNET Meeting – Guinea

### **ECOTRADE (Common External Tariff)**

The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and a representative of WAEMU met in Accra to discuss country-specific progress and the expansion of the Common External Tariff. All countries have made notable progress except Cape Verde. Subsequent to the meeting, Nigeria announced its adoption of the ECOWAS tariff structure.



WABNET Meeting – Guinea, October, 2003

### **WAIBL Textiles & Apparel Trade Mission to the United States**

In December 2003, the Corporate Council on Africa's WAIBL program organized a U.S.-West Africa Textile and Apparel Trade Mission. WAIBL sponsored a delegation of West African textile and apparel manufacturers to visit the U.S. and arranged meetings for them in Washington, DC and New York. This trade mission was preceded in October by WAIBL's U.S.-West Africa Textile & Apparel Trade Seminar in Accra attended by more than 100 businesses from

10 West African countries.  
([www.ccawaibl.com](http://www.ccawaibl.com))

### **Investment Promotion Forum**

A dynamic and well designed workshop was held in Bamako, Mali December 9-12. The staff at the Investment Promotion Agencies in ECOWAS countries was trained on how to design low-cost, effective activities that would be attractive to investors. Sessions included training on the use of internet-based tools, understanding the needs of the private sector, and developing materials for potential investors. Representatives from the World Bank Group's MIGA, International Trade Center, and UNIDO participated.

### **West African Trade Hub (WATH)**

WATH welcomed a new Hub Manager, Dr. Andy Cook, in November. WATH participated in a number of events this quarter: Policy training in Accra, WABNET regional meeting in Conakry, FIMA in Niamey, a regional transportation facilitation workshop in Accra, and the AGOA Forum in Washington DC. In addition, WATH worked closely with WAEMU to specify the type of technical assistance that will be provided to harmonize sanitary and phyto-sanitary requirements. For further information or to subscribe to the monthly newsletter see [www.watradehub.com](http://www.watradehub.com).

### **AGOA Public and Private Sector Forums and the WAEMU Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) meeting.**

WATH was an invited presenter at the Private and Public Sector Forums where the Hub's mission was highlighted. The TIFA meeting with USTR underscored the solid U.S.-WAEMU relationship.

**WARP IN NIGER** WARP participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> **International Festival of African Fashion**, known by its French acronym FIMA December 1-4 in Niamey, Niger. WATH staff conducted a well-received workshop on exporting apparel and hand-woven textiles to the U.S. under AGOA. WARP also had the opportunity to hold discussions with the Niger Chamber of

Commerce (NCOC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the Niger Livestock Association. Representatives from the SME section of the NCOC identified barriers to expanding their trade in the region and noted the importance of regional trade networks and WABNET in particular. The UNECA representative informed WARP of progress in compiling an inventory of trade patterns including the most tradable items in the region. Discussions with the Livestock Association informed WARP of the transportation and refrigeration impediments limiting the export of high quality Nigerean meat to the region.



Visitors to the FIMA fair grounds

## Upcoming Events

- **The ECOGEE Small Grants Facility** will accept applications between **January and March**. Information will be widely distributed soon.
- **ECOGEE Leadership Workshop** A week-long leadership workshop for approximately 30 women will be held **mid-February in Bamako** under the aegis of the ECOGEE program. The workshop is intended to take women who already have demonstrated leadership skills, and strengthen their skills to manage and promote themselves and their organizations more effectively.
- **Financial Instruments Compendium** A compilation of

financial instruments available to regional businesses should be completed and distributed by the **end of February**.

- **WAIBL: Information & Communications Technology (ICT) Business Forum in Newark, NJ.** This event will highlight business opportunities in the ICT, software development and data processing sectors for U.S. and West African businesses. Attendees will have a rare chance to gain in-depth industry knowledge and discuss projects and partnerships. The agenda and registration details will be available in **late January** at [www.ccawaibl.com](http://www.ccawaibl.com). A follow-on “Paired” Trade Mission of delegates from the U.S. will be held in the region **in April**.
- **Regional Market Information System** Two competing designs for this 5 year project by the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) are slated to be completed by March. *Readers are requested to contact the design teams now with any input:* [j.gockowski@cgiar.org](mailto:j.gockowski@cgiar.org), [k.amegbeto@cgiar.org](mailto:k.amegbeto@cgiar.org), [kdebrah@ifdc.org](mailto:kdebrah@ifdc.org), [pannequin@ifdc.org](mailto:pannequin@ifdc.org).
- **WATH** Staff will visit **Burkina Faso** to provide technical assistance to the bi-annual regional artisan workshop, **Mali** to work with the AGOA Committee and the U.S. Peace Corps, **Mauritania** to open a new AGOA resource center and provide business development training, and **Nigeria** to inaugurate another new AGOA resource center. WATH will also host a luncheon for West African Ambassadors in Accra in January.



## West African Power Pool (WAPP)- Energy

**The Fifth Meeting of the Energy Ministers Steering Committee was held by the WAPP in Dakar from November 3-7, 2003.** The purpose of the meeting was to review and adopt the recommendations on the ECOWAS rural electrification initiative, the operational budget of the ECOWAS energy observatory, the European Initiative to promote access to sources of energy, and the Zone B (the region north and west of Cote d'Ivoire) priority projects. President Wade of Senegal who heads the NEPAD energy projects, attended on behalf of the ECOWAS Heads of States.

**The WAPP Stability Study** was launched at the Dakar Meeting. This WAPP-funded study will develop a plan for the future development of the regional transmission system over the period 2004-2020. This study is particularly important for the World Bank and other lenders who appraise projects. Members of the consulting team will be visiting most of the ECOWAS countries during the next six months in order to conduct the study.

### WAPP Financing Updates

- **The World Bank will conduct an appraisal of the WAPP project in July** with a view to presenting the project to their Board in September. The Adaptable Project Loan is expected to have a financing envelope of \$120 million.
- **Mali-Cote d'Ivoire Line:** Consultants have been selected to conduct the environmental impact assessment under a Japanese grant. The African Development Bank expects to partially finance the line as part of its 2004 program.
- **Tema-Prestea Line (Ghana)** The World Bank noted that financing will depend on progress in sector reforms in Ghana.
- **Felou Hydro Plant (Mali)** The World Bank expressed willingness to consider a partial risk guarantee for private financing associated with the plant, assuming it is launched as an IPP.
- **Sakete (Benin) – Ikeja (Nigeria) Line** The AfDB notified that the loan is signed and procurement is at the contract negotiation stage.
- **Ghana – Togo – Benin Line** Both the World Bank and the AfDB noted that they cannot finance activities in Togo due to prohibitions against that country.
- **Bolgatanga (Ghana) – Bagre (Burkina Faso) Line** Burkina Faso has asked that this be delayed to 2012 as the Bobodioulassou-Ouagadougou line is a higher national priority.
- **SENELEC (Senegal)** reported that the feasibility studies for Samangalou and Kaleta have been completed. The AfDB plans to finance the engineering design study and the drafting of the bidding documents. The request for financing is expected to be presented to the AfDB Board in July 2004.
- **Bumbuna Project (Sierra Leone)** The World Bank plans to integrate this into its country assistance program next year.

## Special Focus

### WARP/WAEMU RELATIONS

Established in 1994, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU or UEMOA) has made notable progress in meeting its goal to develop a competitive common market based on the free flow of persons, goods, services, and capital. Members share a common currency, the CFA Franc, with a regional central bank in Dakar and a regional development bank in Lome. The September 2002 IMF survey cited the WAEMU as "the furthest along the path toward integration" of all the regional groupings in Africa.

WAEMU has five main objectives: (1) To increase the economic and financial competitiveness of its member States, (2) To ensure the convergence of macroeconomic performance and policy across member States, (3) To create a common market, (4) To promote the coordination of national sectoral policy and implementation in agriculture, environment, transport, infrastructure, telecommunications, human resources, energy, industry, mining and crafts and (5) To harmonize legislation across member States, particularly with respect to the fiscal system.

#### USG/WAEMU Relations

Over the last three years, the USG-WAEMU relationship has strengthened. Cooperation was consolidated by the signing of a Regional Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) on April 24, 2002, the objective of which is to expand agricultural exports to the U.S. as well as to increase U.S. investment in the WAEMU region. The U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell designated J. Anthony Holmes (current U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso) as his special representative to WAEMU to strengthen U.S.-WAEMU cooperation.

#### WARP-WAEMU Collaboration

In 2003, WARP and WAEMU took the first steps towards strengthening the relationship. Historically, WARP's primary regional inter-governmental partners have been the nine-member CILSS and the fifteen-member ECOWAS. Today, WAEMU, CILSS and ECOWAS are working together in the areas of transportation, agriculture, famine early warning, and customs.

#### Regional Economic Integration

- WARP provides WAEMU with technical assistance to **harmonize sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards** across the 8-country region
- WARP provides support to the joint ECOWAS/WAEMU **transportation plan**
- WARP coordinates with WAEMU on strengthening **networks of market information systems and traders' organizations**.

#### Food Security and Agriculture

- WARP is financing the expansion of the CILSS **early warning system to Benin, Togo and Cote D'Ivoire**.
- WARP supports the expansion of WAEMU's **regional agricultural policy** to the rest of the ECOWAS countries by funding the analytical work and the required meetings.
- WAEMU is actively involved with Ambassador Holmes in preparing a **science and biotechnology conference**. WARP will support this effort by sending experts to address the conference on biotechnology issues.

In addition, WARP will seek to include WAEMU as part of its IEHA (agriculture) program by involving them in the regional *Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (SAKSS)*.

#### Health

In the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Declaration signed in Abuja, 20 African heads of state committed themselves to strongly support the malaria prevention and treatment program. A key component of this program is the **removal of taxes on insecticide-impregnated bed nets**. WARP will continue to work with WAEMU to facilitate this aspect of the RBM campaign as the need arises.

## Regional Conflict Prevention

The Na Wi Pot (It's Our Pot) consortium of NGOs comprising International Rescue Committee, Center for Victims of Torture, and Search For Common Ground/Talking Drum Studio, inaugurated the community radio station in Kailahun, north-east Sierra Leone on the weekend of 5-7 December, 2003 with a Peace Festival.



Celebrating the opening of Kailahun Radio Station

The people of Kailahun and those living close to the Sierra Leone borders in Guinea and Liberia will be able to pick up locally developed programs that deal with issues faced by the people of the border region and serve as the medium for key social messages about conflict, gender-based violence and peace building. They will also receive factual information about resettlement, reintegration, and humanitarian assistance. Forty per cent of broadcast time will be in the local languages of Kissi and Mende.

## Regional Environmental Advisor Update

In addition to settling in during this past quarter, the REA, Rob Clausen conducted two technical assistance field trips and provided technical support to other missions in the region.

**Mali October 19-23** – Visited Mali Mission to provide technical backstopping for climate change reporting and other ENR issues and IEE preparation for two projects in Niger that are managed by the Mali mission.

**Nigeria November 3-7** – Visited Nigeria Mission to provide technical support for developing the new Natural Resource Management/Agriculture program and to review IEE amendments for ongoing agricultural work.

**Technical support work from Accra office:** Reviewed materials and provided feedback on the Environmental Assessment scoping mission for **USAID/Senegal** and reviewed IEEs and annual reporting on environmental compliance for **USAID/Liberia**

**WARP-** Reviewed status of WARP IEEs.

## Upcoming Events

- **Senegal** – Participate in the scoping mission for Environmental Assessment of the NRM/Ag. Initiative

